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[Trip6.13-6.17CTNMEMA \(3\).pdf](#)  
[DailySummaryElectronic.pdf](#)

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## **June 12**

### **9:00-10:00 Senior Staff Meeting**

Location: Office

### **10:40-10:50 Drive to White House**

### **11:00-12:30 Cabinet Meeting**

Location: White House

### **12:30-1:30 Lunch with Secretary Ross**

Location: White House Mess

Topic: Reorganization

### **1:30-1:40 Drive to DOI**

### **2:30-3:15 Media Call on Bears Ears**

Location: Conference Room 6151

Participants: Heather Swift, Comms Team

### **3:30-4:00 Colorado River Basin Briefing**

Location: Office

Participants: Alan Mikkelsen

### **4:00-4:30 Call on Colorado River Basin**

Location: Conference Room 6151

Participants: Representatives from Colorado River Basin

Staff: Alan Mikkelsen, Scott Cameron, Tim Williams

### **4:30-5:00 Update from Deputy Secretary**

Location: Office

Participants: Jim Cason, Downey Magallanes

### **7:00-7:15 Drive to Shakespeare Theater Company**

### **7:30-7:40 Introduction to Will on the Hill**

### **7:40-7:45 Will on the Hill Performance**

### **7:45-8:05 Drive to DOI**

### **8:05 Dinner with Members of Congress**

Location: Office

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**Caroline Boulton**

Department of the Interior

Scheduling & Advance

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# MET BY MOONLIGHT

by

Peter Byrne

With assistance from West Wing Writers  
Katie Atkinson, Kathryn Burns-Yocum, Emma Wesslund and Noreen Major

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

Ryan Zinke

Prologue Chorus One

Prologue Chorus Two

Prologue Chorus Three

Prologue Chorus Four

Prologue Chorus Five

Prologue Chorus Six

Forest Spirit One

Forest Spirit Two

Forest Spirit Three

Oberon (Ian Kahn)

Puck (Maulik Pancholy)

Park Ranger One (Emily Swallow)

Park Ranger Two (Santino Fontana)

Ranger Trainee One

Ranger Trainee Two

Ranger Trainee Three

Barista One

Barista Two

Barista Three

Barista Four

Congressional Aide One

Congressional Aide Two

Congressional Aide Three

Representative One

Representative Two

Representative Three

Reporter One

Reporter Two

Reporter Three  
Reporter Four  
Bureaucrat One  
Bureaucrat Two  
Bureaucrat Three  
Bureaucrat Four  
Tourist Husband One  
Tourist Wife One  
Tourist Husband Two  
Tourist Wife Two  
Teen One  
Teen Two  
Titania  
Ariel  
Epilogue Chorus One  
Epilogue Chorus Two  
Epilogue Chorus Three  
Epilogue Chorus Four  
Epilogue Chorus Five  
Epilogue Chorus Six  
Epilogue Chorus Seven

## RYAN ZINKE

*Two rangers, both alike in dignity,  
In fair Patuxent, where we lay our scene,  
From road closures break to new mutiny,  
Where civil service makes civil hands clean.  
From forth the lovely grounds of this fair park  
A pair of forest rangers meet with Puck;  
Their misadventured enthusiastic overthrows  
Do with their dedication bury Oberon's strife.  
The fearful passage of DC residents,  
And the continuance of the fairies' rage,  
Which, but the rangers' intervention, nought could remove,  
Is now the one hours' traffic of our stage;  
Give or take fifteen minutes  
The which if you with patient ears attend,  
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.  
(exiting) A horse, a horse, my kingdom for a horse!*

(PROLOGUE CHORUS enters.)

## PROLOGUE CHORUS ONE

Of all the woes we face in Washington  
There's one that plagues us worst—and that's the sun.  
We breeze through spring and autumn in "this town"  
And snowless winters don't bring us down.  
But when the blaze of summertime arrives  
The city's denizens run for their lives.

## PROLOGUE CHORUS TWO

And oh, that steamy harsh humidity  
Like Inauguration, when it comes, we flee.  
In cooler seasons, cooler heads prevail  
But when the summer hits this town, we bail.  
For nothing's getting done when it's so hot  
So those who can, seek out some cooler spot

### PROLOGUE CHORUS THREE

But what if all the roads by which we fly  
Were closed to us—oh, what then would we try?  
What if the paths that lead us out of town  
Were, on a summer's day, closed off, shut down?  
This awful scene our pageant now portrays  
When DC suffers in the doggish days

### PROLOGUE CHORUS FOUR

And no one can escape by road or street  
And so our city's folk take to their feet.  
And finding that the Metro is on fire  
Our dear subway is a flaming pyre!  
They travel through the forests, and lo' they find  
The mighty king of all of fairie kind.

### PROLOGUE CHORUS FIVE

This mighty king's not in a kindly mood--  
He doesn't favor those who dare intrude.  
He and his puckish servant show their wrath  
To those who tread upon the woody path.

### PROLOGUE CHORUS SIX

So sit and watch as these two trickster sprites  
Give wayward mortals startles, fits, and frights  
And as we see their fates both foul and fair  
Let's all give thanks this place has central air.

(PROLOGUE CHORUS MEMBERS exit. FOREST SPIRIT ONE, TWO, and THREE enter.)

### FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Good evening, and welcome to—(reacts to the heat)—Good *Lord* it is hot. This isn't funny—I've forgotten my opening line—that's how hot it is.

### FOREST SPIRIT TWO

Where are we, exactly?

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

I'm not sure—you spend your entire life wandering through trees and arbors and whatnot, they all start to look the same after a while.

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

It's true—it seems as if all we ever do is travel through forests.

**FOREST SPIRIT TWO**

We've run into Hillary Clinton twice already.

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

Forests and meadows.

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

And glades.

**FOREST SPIRIT TWO**

*Over hill, over dale--*

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

*Through bush, and through brier,*

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

*Over park, over pale--*

**FOREST SPIRIT TWO**

*Through flood and through fire,*

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

*We do wander everywhere,*

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

*Swifter than the moon's sphere.*

**FOREST SPIRIT TWO**

And in case you couldn't tell from the outfits and the rhyming couplets, we are Shakespearean fairies!

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

Indeed. We are magical spirits of the forest, tricksters and merry-makers—you might know us as nymphs!

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

Are we nymphs? Are you sure? I always thought we were sprites!

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

Sprites? No, no, I think you have to be European to be a sprite. I'm pretty sure it has something to do with Brexit.

**FOREST SPIRIT TWO**

What about pixies? Could we be pixies?

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

I don't want to get into labels. The pundits like to slice and dice us into red sprites and blue sprites... but I just see us as one United Sprites.

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

Whatever. Besides, it's too hot to argue.

**FOREST SPIRIT TWO**

Unless you're Elizabeth Warren at a confirmation hearing.

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

Nevertheless she perspired.

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

Hotter than Melissa McCarthy on a portable podium.

**FOREST SPIRIT TWO**

That's not just hot; it's spicy!

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

Our King and his servant Puck will not be pleased when they arrive.

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

Oh, right! (to audience) We come before you to announce the arrival of the King of our kind to these woods.

**FOREST SPIRIT TWO**

And his servant Puck.

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

Yes, yes, and his servant Puck. We come to clear the way, set the scene, and make sure they have refreshments waiting for them, because between you and me, they can be total divas.

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

Shakespearean demigods are like Mariah Carey or Axl Rose—if everything isn’t perfect, total meltdown.

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

We should also mention that, wherever our master Oberon travels, his magical aura travels with him. Think of it as an Elizabethan advance team.

**FOREST SPIRIT TWO**

Which means that people who enter into these woods will probably be dressed in, let’s say, “period outfits.” (motions to own outfits)

**FOREST SPIRIT THREE**

Here they come! Attend them, fellow nymph.

**FOREST SPIRIT ONE**

I keep telling you, I don’t think that’s what we are!

(OBERON and PUCK enter. If possible, with fanfare. OBERON is very impressive. PUCK is, well, puckish.)

**OBERON**

(to the audience) Greetings, mortals. Give heed, for you are in the presence of royalty.

PUCK

Sire, are we really breaking the fourth wall this early in the evening?

OBERON

We are—and we're going to make the audience pay for it! I am the King of the Fairies--immortal, and nigh-omnipotent—I shall not be confined by artificial notions of suspended disbelief and theatrical decorum.  
shall not be confined by artificial notions of suspended disbelief and theatrical decorum.

PUCK

(holding up binder) Plus it makes it easier for us to just read from these scripts.

OBERON

Indeed.

PUCK

(to audience) And so, to introductions--

OBERON

I am Oberon, King of the Fairies--

PUCK

And I am Puck, his chief of staff (Oberon gives him a look) I thought we agreed to this! (Another look) Ok. Fine. I am Puck, his servant and jester. Through the world of nature, we roam—*Over hill, over dale, Through bush and through briar*—

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Uh, we already did that speech.

PUCK

You stole my speech? Michelle, I feel your pain! Oh, I am so going to transform you into something unspeakable...like a white pantsuit after Labor Day !

OBERON

(to audience) To this forest we have come to—(starts to feel the heat)--we come to—Good *Lord* it is hot. Why would anyone make a place this hot?

PUCK

(needling) Thanks global warming!

OBERON

Oh, don't you start.

PUCK

(to audience) My lord is proud, and he's never going to admit it, but here's the thing: we're a little lost. Because it doesn't matter if a guy is "immortal and nigh-omnipotent"—he will not consult Google Maps.

OBERON

I don't trust her!

PUCK

Look, we're supposed to be headed for the woods outside of D.C.--just get out your phone and call someone who knows. Call Nick Bottom.

OBERON

Siri keeps sending me to "Foggy Bottom" instead. All I found there were college students and trashy bars...

PUCK

Well then, call Peter Quince.

OBERON

Tried that, too—Siri only heard "Quince" and sent me to the Dupont farmers market. You've never seen so much Lululemon in one place.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Um. Sire?

OBERON

(noticing them for the first time) Oh. You three. Did you announce our arrival to the audience?

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

We did, sire.

OBERON

Then why are you still here? And where is my glacier water and avocado toast?

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

Sire—

OBERON

What? What??

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Well, sire, we were having a bit of an argument, and what with you being immortal and nigh-omnipotent, we thought you might be able to settle it.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

But if we don't like your decision, we're going to appeal it to the Supreme Court.

OBERON

Ugh. Go on.

FOREST SPIRIT ONE

Sire—what are we? I say we're sprites--

FOREST SPIRIT TWO

And I say we're pixies!

FOREST SPIRIT THREE

Or maybe nymphs.

OBERON

Oh, I see. Well, yes, I can resolve this pressing matter. Come closer, and I'll tell you what you are: (They lean in—he bellows) You're ensemble. Now get offstage and find us refreshments.

(FOREST SPIRITS ONE, TWO, and THREE exit.)

PUCK

(calling after them) *Iced* drinks. And maybe a little something from Pineapple and Pearls. And a reservation for tomorrow night at Minibar. Okaythanksbye!!!

OBERON

We don't have time for your whining, if you have a problem with me, just deal with it the polite way--by dropping an anonymous quote in *The Washington Post*. We have to figure out where we are.

PUCK

Never fear. If I know anything about the theater, it's that when one character expresses a lack of information, the next character onstage will deliver that information while entering.

(FOREST RANGER ONE and FOREST RANGER TWO enter. She is earnest, polite, and unflappable. He is jaded and snarky. With them are TRAINEES ONE, TWO, and THREE—overeager, wanna-be Alphas.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

(Speaking while entering) OK, so welcome to the Patuxent Research Reserve, located just northeast of Washington D.C.

PUCK

Am I right, or am I right? (Puck shimmies)

OBERON

Stop preening. I can't believe you just... *shimmied*.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Since you three are going to be interning here for the summer, we'll start with a tour around the grounds while my partner goes over the orientation. Now I don't want to see you texting through it or I'll feed you to the ducks—they're more vicious than they look.

#### **FOREST RANGER ONE**

Ahem. (Clears her throat, and begins to give a 'tour guide' performance, complete with heavy emphasis and broad gestures.) Covering nearly 13,000 acres of pristine wilderness, the Patuxent Research Reserve is the only National Nature reserve in the United States to support wildlife research. The Reserve was founded in 1936 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt--

#### **TRAINEE ONE**

We already know all that! We've been prepping for this job ever since our parents put us on the waitlist for Beauvoir.

#### **TRAINEE TWO**

(to audience) There's no better internship than this. We get to be outside. We get to volunteer.

#### **TRAINEE THREE**

It is the plum of all extracurricular activities—we nail this gig, and it's a straight shot to Yale.

#### **TRAINEE ONE**

Environmentalism AND D.C. volunteerism AND my dad only needed to donate \$10 grand for me to get it!

#### **TRAINEE TWO**

We have read up, prepped, studied, and typed so much into our tablets that our thumbs are numb.

#### **FOREST RANGER ONE**

Well—great! Great! Most people aren't as enthusiastic about ecological work—(shoots FOREST RANGER TWO a look)

#### **FOREST RANGER TWO**

Hey, once you've been working here as long as I have, there's only so much excitement you can muster.

**TRAINEE THREE**

Plus our work here today gets us out of D.C.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Why, what's wrong with D.C.?

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

What isn't wrong with DC? The traffic, the tourists, the fact that it's Hollywood for ugly people. I could keep going.

**TRAINEE ONE**

You haven't heard? It's totally shut down!

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

That partisan gridlock is just the worst, isn't it?

**TRAINEE TWO**

No, no—literally. The city is literally shut down!

**OBERON**

Uh oh. I do not like the sound of this.

**PUCK**

(excited) I smell a comedic premise coming up!

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

What are you saying?

**TRAINEE THREE**

You haven't been to the city lately, have you?

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

I have not. Most nights I camp out in the Reserve.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Yeah, why would we want to leave the thriving metropolis of Laurel, Maryland?

**TRAINEE ONE**

You know where New York Avenue turns into 395 which turns into 95?

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

...sure.

**TRAINEE TWO**

Well, not any more they don't. Apparently the money finally came in for infrastructure repair—but it came in for every single highway, road, and rail-line, all at the same time. There was some confusion --

**TRAINEE THREE**

And somehow every single one is now shut down for construction!

**TRAINEE ONE**

Every major highway out of D.C. is shut down for the foreseeable future!

**TRAINEE TWO**

Reagan is so jammed up that the TSA pre-check line is out the door.

**TRAINEE THREE**

And there's no way to make it all the way out to Dulles.

**TRAINEE ONE**

Don't you need a passport to get there?

**TRAINEE TWO**

Plus, Biden took the last Amtrak out of town.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Well, I'm sure that the Safetrack project is complete, and the Metro is still open and running as efficiently as ever.

(Pause, then all the human characters—and possibly the seated volunteers—break out into raucous laughter.)

**PUCK**

(to audience) Ladies and gentlemen, you have the premise of tonight's show.

**TRAINEE THREE**

OK, so, now that the exposition's out of the way, let's talk about renovating this place.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

I'm sorry, what?

**TRAINEE ONE**

We want to make some changes to the Reserve. We have some ideas.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Oh, this should be good. Continue.

**TRAINEE TWO**

For example, have you thought about changing the motto?

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

It's a nature reserve —it doesn't have a motto!

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Although I did used to think "Patuxent is An Open Door" had a nice ring to it...

**TRAINEE THREE**

Don't you think it should? You're never going to turn this place profitable unless you focus on branding!

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

What?!

**TRAINEE ONE**

Check this out—new motto for Patunxet:

*This other Eden, demi-paradise,  
This fortress built by Nature for herself*

**TRAINEE TWO**

*Against infection and the hand of war--  
This earth of majesty, this little world,*

**TRAINEE THREE**

*This precious stone set in the silver sea,  
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this Patuxent Research Reserve .*

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

(after a horrified pause) O...K. But...

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Hey, if they want to waste a whole summer trying to get people excited about this place, let them try.

**TRAINEE ONE**

But we need to be able to drive new users, generate new content, leverage capacities, and improve 10 times.

**TRAINEE TWO**

If we can't tell a metrics-based success story in our cover letter, and then it's "goodbye, Harvard."

**TRAINEE THREE**

And we're stuck with our safety school, Cornell.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Yeah, that sounds like a real tragedy.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Look, can I get on with this orientation?

**TRAINEE ONE**

And that's another thing—this place isn't very user-friendly.

**TRAINEE TWO**

For example, what about installing a moving sidewalk so visitors don't have to use their legs so much?

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Well, that would defeat the purpose of hiking—

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

I think they could be on to something there...

**TRAINEE THREE**

Ooo and what about installing soda fountains—that would cool down guests and boost revenue—

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

The effect on the ecosystem would be devastating—

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

And I'm trying to cut out sugar—I've almost completely switched to La Croix.

**TRAINEE ONE**

How about we hand out those hats with the electric fans to every visitor--

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

We're not really budgeted for that—

**TRAINEE TWO**

(tapping on phone) On it--I'm logging onto Kickstarter right now!

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Please don't do any of these things!

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Except the moving sidewalk, let's keep that.

**TRAINEE THREE**

Too late! We're already raised eighty-thousand dollars from our parents  
colleagues!

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Look, nature doesn't need to be improved! It's called the 'great' outdoors, not the 'could do with an upgrade' outdoors! Look at all we provide and protect! Wetlands and woods! Wild animals and native flora! Trees and rivers and the smell of fresh soil underfoot!

**TRAINEE ONE**

(beat) I'm not seeing how any of those things will strengthen my college application.

**TRAINEE TWO**

*Dreams indeed are ambition, for the very substance of the ambitious is merely the shadow of a dream.*

**TRAINEE ONE**

*A dream itself is but a shadow.*

**TRAINEE THREE**

*Truly, and I hold ambition of so airy and light a quality that it is but a shadow's shadow.*

**OBERON**

(coming forward) Enough, it's too early in the evening for Hamlet!

**TRAINEE ONE**

(terrified) Who are you?

**TRAINEE TWO**

*What are you?*

**OBERON**

Silence! (to FOREST RANGERS) Your reverence for nature pleases us. Please step aside.

**PUCK**

(excitedly to the audience) When Oberon is wrathful, you want to watch out. (to the front rows) The first three rows are the ‘splash zone.’

**OBERON**

(to the TRAINEES) For your disrespect for the forest and your appalling self-starterism, you shall be cursed most terribly.

**TRAINEE THREE**

What are you going to do?

**TRAINEE ONE**

Oh, God, he’s going to give us donkey’s ears—or antlers!

**TRAINEE TWO**

Please don’t give us antlers! I’ve seen that Snapchat filter, and it’s not pretty.

**OBERON**

(laughs derisively) Antlers? Please. Nothing so mild. No, the curse I pronounce on you is this:

**PUCK**

Here it comes!

**OBERON**

For the rest of your lives, your Ubers will always be surge-priced, and your Tinder profiles swiped left.

(TRAINEES wail at this terrible fate, and exit.)

**PUCK**

You know, I’m the incarnation of mischief, but even I gotta say: that was cruel.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Um, what about us?

**OBERON**

Ah, yes, the tolerable ones. Step forward, mortals. (The FOREST RANGERS do) Now. Tell us once again the name of this forest.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

You are in the Patuxent Research Reserve.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

And after all that time we spent putting up signs...See? No one reads anything.

**PUCK**

"The Patuxent Research Reserve." Doesn't exactly trip off the tongue, does it?

**OBERON**

It is most...prosaic.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

You've got that right—

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

(goes into her spiel again, complete with the same voice and gestures as before)—  
Covering nearly 13,000 acres of pristine wilderness, the Patuxent Research Reserve is the only National Nature reserve in the United States to support--

**PUCK**

Shhhhhh.....(she tries to speak)....nope....bip....bippit....zipp...(he gives up)

**OBERON**

If this place truly is, as you say, pristine wilderness, then perhaps it will do for our purposes.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

And what are those purposes, exactly?

**PUCK**

My master is scoping out real estate in the area to see if he wants to relocate here.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Oh, You want to move to the DMV?

OBERON

Well, we like to take in the theater, and we hear there's a place around here that does really good Shakespeare.

PUCK

Plus Doug Jemal said this is the new 14<sup>th</sup> Street. I hear they're opening a new Game of Thrones speakeasy here and everything.

FOREST RANGER TWO

And so you guys will...live in the forest?

OBERON

Kalorama's just too crowded these days.

PUCK

So we will live here, is there a problem?

FOREST RANGER TWO

Well, apart from the heat—

(OBERON and PUCK groan.)

PUCK

Yeah, what's up with that?

FOREST RANGER ONE

Well, I don't suppose you'd like to hear the National Park Service's prepared statement on the perils of climate change—

PUCK

Are you still allowed to even say those words?

FOREST RANGER TWO

Old habits. But why do you want to live in a forest?

OBERON

Because we're fairies.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Are you still allowed to say *that* word?

OBERON

*Fairies.* Magical beings. Immortal and nigh-omnipotent. I am Oberon—King of the Fairies, Prince of the Forests, Firstborn of the Fey Folk, and Rightful Lord of Mount Vernon.

PUCK

(to audience, pointing at OBERON) Two points to House Lannister (they high five) (to FOREST RANGERS) Look, didn't you ever read *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in high school?

FOREST RANGER ONE

The only Shakespeare we learn in forestry school is “exit pursued by bear.”

OBERON

How sad.

PUCK

Look, we (gestures wildly to himself and Oberon) are walking deus-ex-machinas. We can control the tide, the sun, the sky

FOREST RANGER TWO

(singing “You’re Welcome” from Moana) Hey, it’s okay, it’s okay, you’re welcome I’m just an ordinary demi-guy....(realizes they are all staring at him) what? No Moana fans? Tough crowd. Can you do something about the heat?

OBERON

No—some things are so awful, not even the gods can prevent them.

PUCK

Like Saturday nights in Adams Morgan.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Well, I suppose we in the National Park Service wouldn't have a problem with you living here. Patuxent is a nature preserve, and you guys are, well, nature personified—

**OBERON**

Excellent. But we do like our privacy.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Then you're in luck, it's the height of summer—nobody in D.C. will be bothering you.

**PUCK**

(violently shudders—at the reactions of the other two) Sorry, I just felt a sudden chill of dramatic foreboding.

(BARISTAS ONE, TWO, THREE, and FOUR enter—as they make their ways to the podiums, the FOREST RANGERS spot them.)

**BARISTA ONE**

Oh, good. More forest—guys, I'm starting to question our decision to do this on foot!

**BARISTA TWO**

Please—would you rather be back slinging coffee?

**BARISTA THREE**

I know I'm not going back—yesterday the Hill staffers in line were so busy with their phones; no one looked up to appreciate my latte art. I even got their names right on the cups....

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Stop! Pause! Two questions: Who are you? What are you doing here?

**BARISTA FOUR**

(loud and proud) We...are the Baristas of D.C., and it's morning again in America.

(All three BARISTAS strike heroic poses.)

**ALL BARISTAS**

Coffeemakers of the Capital, unite!

**PARK RANGER TWO**

O....K....Is that like a vigilante group, or a union--

**BARISTA ONE**

A union? You clearly are from some magical realm.

**BARISTA TWO**

The city would collapse without us.

**BARISTA THREE**

Up before dawn, we grind the beans--

**BARISTA FOUR**

We filter the water--

**BARISTA ONE**

--we stack the cup sleeves so you don't burn your fingers carrying your large, triple shot, extra foam over to the sugar-and-cream counter—

**BARISTA TWO**

When morning comes, we are the ones who open your eyes to it. With shots of espresso—

**BARISTA THREE**

Ah, espresso—*Put it in any liquid thing you will,  
And drink it off; and, you will have the strength  
Of twenty men.*

**BARISTA FOUR**

I'm pretty sure Shakespeare was writing about poison.

(They Shrug)

**OBERON**

So, these guys make coffee?

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

They do. Don't you have baristas in your kingdom?

**PUCK**

No, we're mostly into cold-pressed juice these days.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Well, we have people who became masters of espresso because they majored in sociology

**BARISTA ONE**

Actually, some of us majored in philosophy but the espresso mastery part is true.

**BARISTA TWO**

Just remember the rules: no camping, the sugar and milk bar are just props, no I won't watch your stuff, and ordering a decaf mocha is just dumb.

**BARISTA THREE**

Our skill is great, and our numbers are legion.

**BARISTA FOUR**

In D.C. alone, there are thousands and thousands of us!

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Then why am I seeing only four of you?

**BARISTA FOUR**

(dropping character for a second— looks awkwardly at the audience and then back at the Ranger gesturing to the audience)) Well, for one thing, this is a volunteer performance.

**BARISTA THREE**

Plus—we don't have the room to show us all onstage!

**BARISTA ONE**

*Can this cockpit hold  
The vast coffeeshops of Columbia?*

**BARISTA TWO**  
*or may we cram  
Within this wooden O the very steamers  
That doth affright the air at Starbucks?*

**BARISTA THREE**  
(aside) Suspension of disbelief, folks.  
*Since a crooked figure may  
Attest in little place a million;  
And let us, ciphers to this great account,  
On your imaginary forces work.*

**BARISTA FOUR**  
*Piece out our imperfections with your thoughts;  
Into a thousand parts divide on man,  
And make imaginary might—*

**BARISTA ONE**  
In other words, cut us some slack—enjoy the magic of theater, people!

**FOREST RANGER TWO**  
But its Frappuchino Happy Hour, shouldn't you be blending Unicorn Fraps?

**BARISTA TWO**  
Are you kidding? It's summer in D.C. We just stock up the self-service fridge with cold brew and hit the road!

**FOREST RANGER ONE**  
Fair enough. But why are you here—in this forest?

**BARISTA THREE**  
Because my girlfriend is creating a blend for competition and we heard there's some killer fiddleheads out here.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

You're looking on foot? In the forest?

BARISTA FOUR

Yes and yes.

FOREST RANGER ONE

You guys can't come through here and harvest things.

BARISTA ONE

Why not?

FOREST RANGER ONE

Um...well....

PUCK

(to OBERON) Sire, we may not have the cleverest mortals working for us.

OBERON

Then let's help. (makes himself visible, speaks to the BARISTAS) Now harken to me, you three purveyors of mildly addictive legal stimulants! This forest is closed to mortals! You shall all return from whence you came forthwith!

PUCK

He likes to bust out the thesaurus when he's making his pronouncements.

OBERON

(as Donald Trump) I have the best words.

PUCK

And he'll keep going longer than a Democrat in a filibuster.

BARISTA THREE

Woah! Were you hiding in the bushes this whole time?!

BARISTA TWO

And who are you to say the forest is closed? The government didn't shut down, you can't stop us!

PUCK

Ah, but—has it occurred to you--if the whole city is going to be stuck you know what they'll all need? Gallons of cold brew and those tips will be yours!

BARISTA FOUR

Tips...

BARISTA ONE

Gotta respect the tips.

BARISTA TWO

Fine, fine—you win—

*My poverty, but not my will, consents.*

PUCK

*I pay thy poverty, and not thy will.*

BARISTA THREE

--but mark my words—we're only the first of many visitors you're about to have—

BARISTA FOUR

D.C. is emptying out, and they're all headed this way.

ALL BARISTAS

To the French presses!

(The BARISTAS exit.)

OBERON

Well, that was easy enough.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Didn't you hear what that one said? There are others coming this way.

OBERON

Then this will be a long day of shapeshifting and slant rhyming...

PUCK

Ooo! Ooo! Let's put donkey heads on all the Democrats and elephant heads on all the Republicans!

OBERON

Little 'on the nose,' I think.

FOREST RANGER ONE

OK, transforming any visitors to the Patuxent Reserve into half-human monstrosities would be a violation of National Parks Service Policy, as introducing a non-native species into this environment would have devastating consequences—

FOREST RANGER TWO

And as much as I'd like to, and I would really like to, you can't go around transforming people just because they're annoying. MSNBC would have to cancel Morning Joe and The Rachel Maddow Show. Every season of *The Bachelor* would be, like, 20 seconds long.

PUCK

*That which we call a rose  
By any other name would never smell as sweet-*

FOREST RANGER ONE

Might I suggest a compromise? Could we just please try *talking* to these people?

OBERON

That seems awfully time-consuming.

PUCK

Shapeshifting them into something hilarious is so much quicker. (getting carried away) What if we, like, turned them all into the Walkers from Walking Dead or send them to the upside down like Stranger Things, and then we made them all fight each other? It'd be like the ultimate fan fiction come to life!

OBERON

You need to spend less time on Reddit.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Please, just let's try it her way. Look, here comes a group of visitors—let's see what they have to say.

**OBERON**

(In a huff) Very well. Will no one rid me of these meddlesome mortals?

(CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE, CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO, and CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE enter. They are all harried and miserable.)

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE**

*O Jupiter, how weary are my spirits!*

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO**

*I care not for my spirits, if my legs were not weary.*

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE**

*I pray you, bear with me; I cannot go no further.*

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE**

*For my part, I had rather bear with you than bear you.*

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO**

*Well, this is the forest of Patuxent.*

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE**

*Ay, now am I in Patuxent; the more fool I; when I was at home, I was in a better place: but travellers must be content.*

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Well, they all look harried and miserable and bleary-eyed from lack of sleep—I'm guessing they must be Congressional Aides.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE**

You're darned right we are—I've got the student loan debt and the iPhone hunch to prove it.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE**  
*I am a-weary, give me leave awhile:*

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO**  
*Fie, how my bones ache! what a jaunt have I had!  
Do you not see that I am out of breath?*

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE**  
*How art thou out of breath when thou hast breath  
To say to me that thou art out of breath?*

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE**  
We're what happens when you let your idealism battle to override long days standing in hallways answering a million questions while being asked if there is someone more important constituents can talk to.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO**  
Now, get out of our way—we need to put as much distance between us and D.C. as we can before they realize we've gone!

**FOREST RANGER ONE**  
So you guys are fleeing the D.C. heatwave, too?

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE**  
Partly. But mostly, we're getting away from our bosses!

**FOREST RANGER ONE**  
Your bosses? Wait, you're bailing on the Members you work for?

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE**  
Well, not so much them--

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO**

Yeah, the Members are actually pretty cool.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE**

And we're not just saying that because we're standing onstage with a bunch of them.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE**

That is a factor, though.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO**

Oh, totally. It's just that during the summer, our jobs...change.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE**

With the adjournment, our work is less about "helping to craft and pass legislation," and more about showing people from the home district around. I don't know how many times I've been asked if I could point out the Liberty Bell.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE**

Members of Congress are wonderful—(again to the volunteers)—truly, totally—but when summer comes, they try to catch up on all the new technology, and it never goes well. Nothing is scarier than when your boss asks for their own Twitter password.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE TWO**

Have you ever seen a documentary called "Weiner"?

**OBERON**

(to PUCK) I don't think I want to.

**PUCK**

This Twitter seems dangerous—but you staffers are the best and brightest! Surely, you can handle it.

**CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE**

We just want a break, that's all—and this forest is the only place we'll find it.

*Weary with toil, I haste me to the woods,*

*the dear repose for limbs with travel tired.*

Seriously, outta the way!

PUCK

(with feeling) We have heard your cries, and we feel your pain.

OBERON

Your plight is clearly desperate. Nay,woeful. Nay, pathetic. Enough! You're bumming me out! This is supposed to be a comedy, not *Manchester by the Sea*! (Everyone stares at him.) Seriously, people. Anyway--your suffering has moved me—I hereby grant you my leave to pass through this forest unscathed.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE ONE

But our bosses will chase after us wherever we go!

PUCK

Fear not! I shall disguise you in the one form that they will never want to see—a town hall attendee. (Everybody shudders.)

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE THREE

Thank you! Thank you so much!

(The CONGRESSIONAL AIDES depart.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

OK, so, see—two groups of Washingtonians dispatched, and no need to go all presto-chango on them! Being nice to people is fun!

PUCK

Being nice only if they deserve it.

FOREST RANGER TWO

And they so rarely deserve it.

PUCK

Exactly. Most people who cross our path are in need of a little correction.

OBERON

Enlightenment.

PUCK

But not that liberal coastal elite kind.

OBERON

The kind that only a fairy with magical powers can provide.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Someone's getting turned into something horrible before this is all over, aren't they?

PUCK

...yyyyeah.

FOREST RANGER TWO

(Sarcastically) In that case, I hope that whoever shows up next will be polite and respectful and not at all antagonistic.

PUCK

Wow, that setup was as subtle as a sledgehammer, wasn't it?

(REPRESENTATIVE ONE, REPRESENTATIVE TWO, and  
REPRESENTATIVE THREE enter. They are very, very cranky.)

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

Where are they?

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

I know they came this way—I can smell the Redbull and tears!

*Oh, when these our staffers have all gone,  
Our lives, which lean on them and all they do,  
sink down to death, oppress'd with melancholy.*

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

*I do not joy, am no longer glad,  
I call them back again and straight grow sad.*

Those aides can't abandon us and get away with it!

FOREST RANGER TWO

I recognize these three—they're Members of Congress! They must be looking for the Aides that just ran past.

PUCK

I believe in Washington you call that leading from behind.

OBERON

Stop that. (PUCK gestures, about to transform them) I want to terrify these intruders! (to the REPRESENTATIVES) Halt, you three! You tread in the forest kingdom of Oberon, King of the Fairies, Prince of the Forests, Firstborn of the Fey Folk, and Rightful Lord

PUCK

Seriously, boss—this evening is already long enough. (to REPRESENTATIVES) And I am his deadly-albeit-adorable servant Puck! Bet you're all terrified, huh?

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

(no, they aren't) We are not. Those names mean nothing to us!

OBERON

Seriously? Does *no one* read Shakespeare anymore?

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

Of course we read Shakespeare. He just means that those names mean nothing to us ---unless you live in my district.

OBERON

Excuse me?

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

Fella, when you're responsible for the legislative agenda of a country of over 300 million people, you're not gonna get all fluttery over some fictional woodsy creatures! We save that for CBO scores.

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

Now, step aside. We've been abandoned by our aides, and we know they came this way—we need them back!

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Because you need their help in carrying out your legislative agendas?

**REPRESENTATIVE TWO**

What? No. It's the summer—nobody's doing any legislating until the leaves change.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Then why do you need them back?

**REPRESENTATIVE ONE**

Because those little rascallions locked our Twitter accounts.

**REPRESENTATIVE THREE**

Now, how are we supposed to know the latest White House position on U.S. foreign policy?

**OBERON**

Alas I must tell you that your former lackeys are beyond your reach!

**REPRESENTATIVE ONE**

Listen, they keep track of ALL our passwords. I can't even log into my Gmail account. Not that I would ever use an unclassified system to communicate classified information.

**REPRESENTATIVE TWO**

Exactly, and I need my Instagram login-- my constituents depend on me to explain policy with videos.

**REPRESENTATIVE THREE**

Now—out of our way—we're not stopping until we catch them and bring them back!

**OBERON**

I'm sorry—you three mortals are challenging me, the King of these woods?

FOREST RANGER ONE

Technically, these are more ‘wetlands’ than ‘woods’—

FOREST RANGER TWO

Seriously people, we put out brochures all over the park!

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

I'm pretty sure the Parks and Rec subcommittee of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee has jurisdiction over the parks service budget... so I think *I'm* actually the king of these woods.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Actually, I'm pretty sure Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke is the king of these woods, but he had to go earlier, so, sure, Congressman, we'll go with that.

REPRESENTATIVE ONE

*Do ye yield, sir? or shall I sweat for you? if I do sweat, they are the drops of thy lovers, and they weep for thy death: therefore rouse up fear and trembling, and do observance to my mercy.*

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

*I have a whole school of tongues in this belly of mine, and not a tongue of them all speaks any other word but my name.*

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

*I have speeded hither with the very extrekest inch of possibility; I have foundered nine score and odd posts: and here, travel-tainted as I am, I shall throw you o'er.*

OBERON

Well, on the one hand, I'm impressed by your ability to quote *Henry IV Part Two*—that's a Shakespearean deep cut.

**PUCK**

(offering a fist bump to the closest REPRESENTATIVE) Respect.

**OBERON**

But on the other hand, you just insulted a King in the heart of his kingdom! You leave me no choice. Actually, you leave me with a lot of choices, and I'm going to go with the meanest one I can think of.

**PUCK**

Get ready! The mischief train is pulling into the station! (Train noise)

**OBERON**

You—you're a Republican, aren't you?

**REPRESENTATIVE ONE**

A proud member of the Party of Lincoln.

**PUCK**

Lincoln was a Republican? Wow!

**OBERON**

Well, Mr. Republican, you will now only be able to say the opposite of what you believe! (Makes a magic gesture—sound effect, if possible.)

**REPRESENTATIVE ONE**

Oh please—that's ridiculous—almost as ridiculous as regulatory reform. After all, what's a regulation but a protection. Come to think of it, we should have MORE regulations. (Gasps, claps his hand over his mouth.)

**REPRESENTATIVE TWO**

Dude, the Koch Brothers are going to disown you.

**PUCK**

Oh, this is fun—let me try. You—you're a Democrat, right?

REPRESENTATIVE TWO  
I am, and proud to say so!

PUCK  
Not for long! (Magical gesture.)

REPRESENTATIVE TWO

Speaking as a Democrat, I have to say: Charter Schools should be seen as a leg up for kids and a chance for students in the public-school system to expand their horizons. —we should really increase their funding! Or just go straight to vouchers. (Claps hand over mouth.)

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

Oh, man—George Soros just deleted your number from his phone.

OBERON  
(to REPRESENTATIVE THREE) And then there was one...

REPRESENTATIVE THREE

Please! I'm a registered Independent. There's nothing you can do that'll cause me to lose my constituents.

OBERON  
Oh, an Independent, are we? So, your supporters won't riot when they hear you say—(Magical gesture.)

REPRESENTATIVE THREE  
Bernie Sanders is overrated! (Claps hand over mouth.)

REPRESENTATIVE TWO  
This isn't fair! Almost as unfair as environmental regulations on corporations. They're people, too! Oh, no! (Claps hands over mouth again.)

REPRESENTATIVE ONE  
This should be illegal! Unlike marijuana, which should be legalized for medicinal and recreational use! (Claps hands over mouth again.)

**REPRESENTATIVE THREE**

(as everyone looks his way) Oh, no, I'm gonna stay silent on this one. Just like I'm gonna stay silent on how I've never liked *Hamilton!* (Claps hands over mouth.)

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Wow, Twitter is just gonna eat you alive. You sure you want those passwords? You're gonna want to start running right now, and don't stop until you hit the Eastern Shore.

(Taking her advice, the REPRESENTATIVES depart, keeping their hands over their mouths.)

**REPRESENTATIVE THREE**

I don't understand what Axios is! Mike Allen, where did you go? Dammit! (Exits.)

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

You two—that was just mean.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

I don't know. I kind of like their style.

**OBERON**

(grinning) I know, right?! Look, we are the demi-gods of these woods. When mortals come here, they tread on hallowed ground!

(REPORTERS ONE, TWO, THREE and FOUR start to enter.)

**PUCK**

My lord's hyperbole aside, all we ask is that those who come here treat the place with the respect and appreciation that it deserves.

**REPORTER ONE**

This place stinks!

**PUCK**

To be fair, I totally set myself up for that one.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

No! Wait! Please! Remember what we just learned about listening? Just...hold off and hear what they have to say.

**OBERON**

Very well. Who are they?

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

I don't know—thanks to your little Shakespearean Costume whammy, everybody looks like they just stumbled in from the Renaissance fair!

**REPORTER TWO**

(consulting smart phone) Can you get a signal? I can't get a signal!

**REPORTER THREE**

(same) No I can't get a signal! If I could get a signal, I'd be typing—does it look like I'm typing?! Why can't we get a signal?

**REPORTER FOUR**

If the heat is any indication, I'm thinking sun-spot activity.

**REPORTER ONE**

Either that or all the cell towers melted. Stupid lying cell phone carrier!

**REPORTER TWO**

(dropping character for a second) You're not going to start insulting Verizon, are you? Because I'm pretty sure they can hear everything from across the street.

**REPORTER ONE**

No, of course not, I'm not crazy.

**REPORTER TWO**

Good. Smart. (Back into character) But this is serious! If we can't get a signal, we can't post!

**REPORTER THREE**

If my clicks go down, so does my career! My screen has gone blank, and, as we all know, Democracy Dies in Darkness!

### **REPORTER FOUR**

You think that's bad? If I don't tweet, I don't eat. I've got half-a-million Twitter followers who are depending on me to distract them from their day jobs! If they have to go without my dazzling insight—(REPORTER ONE snorts at this)--shut up—for too long, they start to realize that I'm neither dazzling nor insightful! (REPORTER ONE snorts again.) All right, that's it—(Starts to go for REPORTER ONE.)

### **REPORTER TWO**

(interposing) Stop it, you two—we can't turn on each other like this! Remember, we're the ones on the front lines of the day's events—the infantry of the war on ignorance—

*From this day to the ending of the world,  
We all in it shall be remember'd;*

### **REPORTER ONE**

*We few, we happy few, we band of brothers—*

### **REPORTER TWO**

*For he today that tweets his thoughts with me  
Shall be my brother* (referring to REPORTER ONE), *be he ne'er so vile.*

### **FOREST RANGER TWO**

I'm thinking they're journalists.

### **PUCK**

Wow. Way to read minds, Professor X.

### **REPORTER THREE**

*We are but warriors for the working-day;*

### **REPORTER FOUR**

*Our suits and notepads are all besmirch'd  
From marching in the painful field;*

### **FOREST RANGER ONE**

(greeting the REPORTERS) Are you guys lost?

**REPORTER ONE**

Thank God! Human beings!

**OBERON**

Like hell we are--Bite your tongue!

**REPORTER TWO**

We're looking for some way out of this wood.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Yeah, there seems to be a lot of that going around today.

**REPORTER THREE**

We're headed away from D.C. Far, far away.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Ah, so you're fleeing the heat?

**REPORTER FOUR**

No, the cold.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

I'm sorry--the cold?

**REPORTER FOUR**

The cold.

**PUCK**

(referring to REPORTERS; loud whisper to OBERON) I think this is the fake news everyone is talking about.

**REPORTER ONE**

No. Look, we're journalists—

**OBERON**

That's been established. No more self-referencing!

**REPORTER TWO**

Anyway—we work the D.C. beat—which means that nine months out of the year, we've got the biggest and most important stories in the country—but when summer hits D.C., the place empties out, the boldface names stop showing up at Café Milano, and everything grinds to a halt. We call it ‘the big chill.’

**REPORTER THREE**

The point is, there's nothing for us to cover—all the movers-and-shakers head off to wherever the Obamas are vacationing. So unless you can get me a first look at how Jeff Bezos is renovating his house—

**OBERON**

Please. I'm a demigod, and even I can't get an audience with Bezos.

**REPORTER FOUR**

Then there's nothing for us to report on in D.C. for the next three months.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

So, then, where are you three headed?

**REPORTER TWO**

The only place there's any news to be had that anyone wants to hear about. We go...(dramatic pause)...to Hollywood!

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

That is a disappointing answer on so many levels.

**REPORTER THREE**

Tell us about it! You try spending three months writing nothing but “who wore it best, flip flop edition.” The only flip flops I’m interested in covering are John Kerry’s.

**REPORTER FOUR**

But we have to go there. Hollywood is the only place where anything's happening during the summer. It's blockbuster season, and we can find work doing press junkets. We can only hope to run into Amal Clooney and get some real news.

**REPORTER ONE**

We're off to sit in dressing rooms and lap up whatever lunacy the celebs are babbling about. For three months. (pause) Three. Months. It'll be like having to sit through *The Revenant* all over again.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Why not do something else—how about covering local politics?

**REPORTER TWO**

The only local politics in D.C. are stories about mass transit failures and bribery scandals and after a while, that just gets too dry.

**REPORTER FOUR**

Look, our employers need national content to drive readership! HuffPo would collapse in mid-August if it wasn't for celebrity news! That and whatever Michael Moore is yelling about—seriously, doesn't that guy have an indoor voice?

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

*Misery acquaints a man with strange bedfellows.*

So, you're all, like, dying inside, huh?

**ALL REPORTERS**

So, SO MUCH.

**REPORTER THREE**

You think we don't want to write about real stuff? Of course we do—

**REPORTER ONE**

We didn't get into journalism because we wanted to chase after puff—

**REPORTER TWO**

We wanted to make a difference! Reveal the hidden truth! Be there when Chuck Schumer's glasses finally fall off!

**REPORTER THREE**

When we were young, we told ourselves:  
*Let fame, that all hunt after in their lives,*  
*Live register'd upon our brazen tombs*  
*And then grace us in the disgrace of death;*

**REPORTER FOUR**

*When, spite of cormorant devouring Time,*  
*The endeavor of this present breath may buy*  
*That honour which shall bate his scythe's keen edge*  
*And make us heirs of all eternity.*

**REPORTER ONE**

*The grosser manner of these world's delights*  
*We throw upon the gross world's baser slaves:*

**REPORTERTWO**

*To love, to wealth, to pomp, we pine and die;*  
*With all these living in pursuit of truth.*

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Wow. Noble sentiment.

**PUCK**

(to OBERON) You catch the reference?

**OBERON**

*Love's Labour's Lost.* Opening lines.

**PUCK**

Wow. Another deep cut—D.C. really loves its Shakespeare.

**OBERON**

Your plight is sad, but your resolve to flee to this place called Hollywood is misguided.

**PUCK**

Weird, but every time somebody mentions that place I taste kale smoothies.

**OBERON**

You must return to the District of Columbia—

**REPORTER ONE**

But there's no news!

**REPORTER THREE**

And the heat! Dear Lord, the heat!

**OBERON**

Yes, yes, the heat. Your minds are like Metro – on a single track. You will return to the District of Columbia, but I will grant you this boon—we have been sending back the legislators of Washington, so they too will be there with you—

**REPORTER FOUR**

A politician in D.C. over the summer! Impossible!

**OBERON**

Yet it will be so—and more! I solemnly pledge that—through my magic—I shall create a news story that shall set this city abuzz.

**REPORTER TWO**

Oh, boy! Is the Purple line actually happening?

**REPORTER THREE**

Did Dan Snyder finally change the name of the Washington Redski...

**REPORTER FOUR**

Don't say it.

**OBERON**

Return to D.C. and you'll find Dusty Baker saying Bryce Harper is overrated and should be traded to the Orioles!

**REPORTER ONE**

(ducking out of this uncomfortably moment) Uh—quick! We've got to get back and get the Internet Outrage Machine primed and ready to go!

REPORTER FOUR

Back to the city!

REPORTER TWO

Indeed. (slight pause) But dear Lord, the heat...

(The REPORTERS exit.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

Another crisis averted without transmogrification! Go team!

FOREST RANGER TWO

Aw, you've been using that Word-Of-The-Day calendar I re-gifted to you.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Affirmative, that gift engendered great felicity in me.

OBERON

Indeed. You mortals are proving of use. I may want to keep you on as part of my kingly court. Of course, we'll have to wait for my wife—the fairy Queen, Telania, I mean, Titania--to approve any new hires. Come to think of it, where *is* Titania?

PUCK

I don't know. (heavily insinuating) It's strange that such a noted and important figure from *Midsummer* wouldn't make an appearance. (Leaning towards the audience) Foreshadowing!

OBERON

(joining PUCK) Magic of theater!

(BUREAUCRATS ONE, TWO THREE and FOUR enter. They're slow, but cheerful—like human sloths.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

If you two are done destroying the last shards of the fourth wall—we have some new visitors approaching.

**FOREST RANGER**

And approaching...and approaching...very slowly.

**OBERON**

Curse these constant intrusions! Who are these strange creatures?

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

(examining them) Hmm. I'm calling them as bureaucrats.

**PUCK**

But they're dressed the same as everyone else—how can you tell?

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

(as close to an impersonation of Benedict Cumberbatch as possible.) Something flat behind the eyes. Scarred fingers suggesting multiple paper cuts. Pasty skin suggests lack of sunlight.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

The smell of recycled air suggesting years spent inside government buildings. Heavy breathing indicates that they've sighed impatiently far more than normal.

**PUCK**

You've memorized, like, every single episode of Sherlock, haven't you?

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Hey, what else are we supposed to do when the park is slow?

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Also, they have a lanyard and a badge. Why doesn't anyone take those off?

**OBERON**

Speak—who are you?

**BUREAUCRAT ONE**

We're bureaucrats.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

I knew it! (Rangers high-five) Nobody? Really? not cool, fairies.

**OBERON**

We have seen many strange things since coming to these woods, yet you three surpass all we have met so far. Tell me, why do you look so sad?

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

They're always gloomy—they're bureaucrats.

**BUREAUCRAT TWO**

That's actually a common misconception! We love our work! The quiet, the filing, the stapling—ahhh, the stapling.

**BUREAUCRAT THREE**

We're the unsung heroes of the D.C. ecosystem. If we do our jobs well, no one notices, but if we didn't- complete chaos would ensue!

**BUREAUCRAT FOUR**

Paper comes to the inbox. We read, we review, we stamp. Paper goes to the outbox. It's the circle of life. Like the Bard wrote:

*All the world's an office,  
And all the men and women merely workers:*

**BUREAUCRAT ONE**

*They have their exits and their entrances;  
And one drone in his time plays many parts,  
His acts being seven ages—*

**BUREAUCRAT TWO**

Well, except in the civil service, it's really just three ages— First comes the Junior Filer, next the Senior Filer, then the Managing Filer.

**BUREAUCRAT THREE**

Then comes the last scene of all, the pension!!

**ALL BUREAUCRATS**

Yay, PENSION!

FOREST RANGER ONE

And are you, too, fleeing the heat?

FOREST RANGER TWO

(snarkily) Oh, is it hot in D.C.? Someone should really say something about that.

BUREAUCRAT FOUR

Oh, no—the seasons mean nothing to us. We work in a government building. The temperature is always the same.

Our sun is a fluorescent light bulb.

OBERON

So then I take it you are simply fleeing your work?

BUREAUCRAT ONE

No, no, we told you--we love our jobs.

OBERON

Yes, but I assumed you were being sarcastic.

BUREAUCRAT TWO

(*Deadpan*) I don't follow.

BUREAUCRAT THREE

We're the eyes on the permits, the signature on the licenses.

BUREAUCRAT FOUR

We keep the records. Bureaucrats write the first draft of history.

FOREST RANGER TWO

I thought that was journalists.

BUREAUCRAT ONE

(scornful) Please. Where would they be without our documents?

BUREAUCRAT TWO

Civil service is the noblest calling--and we get to do it every day! *Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow!* Then the pension!

#### BUREAUCRAT THREE

Plus, we get to fill out forms! Every day! Ah, the forms. (All three bureaucrats sigh happily: “Ahhh, the forms...”)

#### BUREAUCRAT FOUR

The only thing that’s better than the forms—are the forms in triplicate! (They sigh even MORE happily: “Ahhhh, triplicate...”)

#### BUREAUCRAT ONE

You know, one time, I saw a form that had eight forms underneath!

#### BUREAUCRAT TWO

I thought that was just a myth! Like Bernie actually being a Democrat.

#### BUREAUCRAT THREE

But it doesn’t matter. Summer is here, and we can’t enjoy anything anymore.

#### FOREST RANGER ONE

Why?

#### BUREAUCRAT FOUR

*I will tell you why; so shall my anticipation prevent your discovery. I have of late--but wherefore I know not--lost all my mirth, forgone all custom of exercises.*

#### BUREAUCRAT TWO

*This goodly frame, the earth, seems to me a sterile promontory, this most excellent canopy, the air, look you, this brave o'erhanging firmament, this majestical roof fretted with golden fire, why, it appears no other thing to me than a foul and pestilent congregation of vapours.*

#### BUREAUCRAT THREE

*Man delights not me: no, nor woman neither,  
though by your smiling you seem to say so.*

**OBERON**

Wow. A bureaucrat reciting *Hamlet*. That might be the definition of sad.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

But if you're not running from the heat, then what's got you out here?

**BUREAUCRAT ONE**

The summer brings with it a plague on D.C. far worse than any heat.

**BUREAUCRAT TWO**

They stand on both sides of the escalator.

**BUREAUCRAT THREE**

They block the entrance to our building taking selfies because they think it's the Air and Space Museum.

**BUREAUCRATFOUR**

They attract ice cream trucks which block our parking.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

(getting it) Ahhhh.

**OBERON**

What? What??

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

The worst thing to hit D.C. every year isn't the heat—it's the tourists!

(The BUREAUCRATS recoil at the word “tourists.”)

**BUREAUCRAT ONE**

Ugh! Do not speak of them! Every summer, they come. In groups and busloads and families that have screaming fights right in front of you!

**BUREAUCRAT TWO**

So many of them—so loud—so pushy—so many socks in so many sandals.

**OBERON**

Enough—I shall pronounce my sentence—Bureaucrats, I sentence you three to—

**BUREAUCRAT THREE**

Hold that thought. (Sniffs the air) Do you smell that?

**BUREAUCRAT FOUR**

(Sniffs) Oh, God. Sunscreen. I smell sunscreen!

**BUREAUCRAT ONE**

(cocks an ear) And I just heard the zipper on a fanny pack!

**BUREAUCRAT TWO**

Dear Lord, they've followed us! Run! For the love, run!

**OBERON**

But I have yet to pronounce sentence!

**BUREAUCRAT THREE**

Buddy, nothing you could threaten us with is worse than what's about to come through these woods—we are gone!

(And the FOUR BUREAUCRATS exit.)

**PUCK**

Wow, they disappeared faster than the Capitals in a game seven. Are these tourists really that bad?

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Unless you like having people quack at you from a duckboat, then yeah, kinda.

**OBERON**

They sound most rude, these tourists.

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Well, to be fair, the economy of D.C. does sorta depend on the revenue they bring in, but man, that doesn't help when a bunch of middle schoolers stop in you in the street to ask if the Washington Monument really retracts into the ground at night.

**OBERON**

Fascinating. I confess, I long to see such creatures.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Well, it's summer and it's D.C.—you will get your wish.

*Cry "havoc!" and let slip the dogs of war*

(TOURIST HUSBAND ONE, TOURIST WIFE ONE, TOURIST HUSBAND TWO, and TOURIST WIFE TWO enter. They are frighteningly wholesome. Trailing behind them are TEEN ONE and TEEN TWO, bored and unhappy.)

**PUCK**

Wow—it seems like this whole night, whenever we talk about someone, they appear right away. (Beat, then looks up and says loudly) Jumbo Slice! (OBERON and FOREST RANGERS give him a look) What? I'm hungry!

**TOURIST WIFE ONE**

Honey! Do we know where we are?

**TOURIST HUSBAND ONE**

For the last time, yes! This is the Jefferson Memorial...kind of underwhelming if you ask me.

**TEEN ONE**

(mumbling, sullen) Ugh Dad, you're such a dork.

**TOURIST HUSBAND ONE**

If I'm such a dork then why am I wearing this cool Hawaiian shirt?

**TOURIST WIFE TWO**

Oh, let's all take a selfie.

**TOURIST HUSBAND TWO**

We can post it to instant gram!

TEEN TWO

Nobody wants to see that.

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

Oh really? My last photo got two whole likes. Your mother, and Uncle Jim.

TOURIST WIFE TWO

Your father is breaking the internet!

TOURIST WIFE ONE

Did anybody remember to bring the map?

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

We don't need a map. I have an excellent sense of direction. See over there, that's the Washington Monument. Lucky it hasn't retracted into the ground yet!

TEEN ONE

I want to hit every one of you with a tree branch.

TOURIST WIFE TWO

What was that?

TEEN ONE

Nothing.

(The TOURISTS suddenly notice OBERON, PUCK, and the FOREST RANGER.)

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

Hey, guys, check this out—it's a two Forest Rangers and—I'm just guessing here—some kind of Shakespeare in the park, are you actors? Is this performance free?

OBERON

*ACTORS?!!?!*

TOURIST WIFE TWO

Oh, they're in character.

OBERON

I am Oberon, King of the Fairies, Prince of the Forest—

PUCK

Boss, no! By the time we get out of here, nobody'll be able to catch a cab!

FOREST RANGER ONE

(to OBERON) Just play along.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Yeah, the last thing you want to do is try to convince a tourist that they're wrong.

OBERON

Fine, fine, so long as they don't—(All FOUR TOURISTS take out their phones and start taking photos)—And there we go. OK, I'm gonna thunderbolt them.

FOREST RANGER ONE

(trying to distract the TOURISTS away from OBERON) So, you folks just visiting the District?

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

Yep, sure are! All the way from Minnesota!

FOREST RANGER TWO

And are these your kids?

TEEN ONE/TWO

Unfortunately.

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

Maybe you can talk some sense into them—here we go and bring them all the way to our nation’s capital, and they can’t seem to get excited about anything around here!

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Well, I could try...Um, hey, there, kids! (trying to bond, not succeeding) Pretty lame having to hang with the ‘rents, huh, kids? (The TEENS stare at her, blankly.) Um, so...nature is pretty *on fleek*, though, huh? (More blank stares.) You baes like...Snapchat? Ever seen the filter with the um...puppy ears?

**PUCK**

Oh, the humanity...

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

So, how about the Patuxent Reserve? Pristine nature—I’d say that’s...trending.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

This is the Beyonce-themed orientation video all over again...I can never listen to Lemonade without hearing “Okay trainees now let’s get park information.” (to the tune of Formation)

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

(to the tune of Hold Up) Hold up, don’t you litter in my park, please.

**TEEN ONE**

*Truly, ranger, in respect of itself, it is a good  
reserve , but in respect that it hath no wi-fi,  
it is naught.*

**TEEN TWO**

*In respect that it is solitary, I  
like it very well; but in respect that my parents are here,  
it is a very vile reserve .*

**TEEN ONE**

*Now, in respect it  
is in the fields, it pleaseth me well; but in  
respect that vaping's not allowed, it is tedious.*

TEEN TWO

*As is it a shaded spot, look you, it fits my humour well;  
but as there is no cell coverage in it, it goes much  
against my stomach.*

FOREST RANGER ONE

Wow, so, like, literally everybody in the world knows more Shakespeare than us.

FOREST RANGER TWO

To be or not to be embarrassed...

TEEN ONE

Mom, Dad, I'm gonna go wander off, throw some rocks at stuff, see what happens.

TEEN TWO

I'm gonna follow him around and post what he does on Facebook Live.

TOURIST WIFE ONE

I don't know what that means. Have fun you two!

(The TEENS exit.)

FOREST RANGER ONE

So since you all are here, I'll be happy to take any questions about the Reserve.

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

Are we on the National Mall right now?

FOREST RANGER TWO

Well, actually...

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

I don't think so. I don't see a Macy's here!

(The TOURISTS laugh uproariously.)

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

Hilarious. Don't hear that one often.

**TOURIST WIFE TWO**

I always said you should do standup!

**TOURIST HUSBAND TWO**

And I say I can't...because I love my recliner too much!

(The TOURISTS laugh uproariously. Again.)

**TOURIST WIFE ONE**

So—what's the story behind this place?

**FOREST RANGER ONE**

Oh, well—(to OBERON and PUCK)—sorry, you guys, but it's kinda my job.  
(Deep breath, and) Covering nearly 13,000 acres of pristine wilderness, the  
Patuxent Research Reserve is the only National Nature reserve in the United States  
to support--

**OBERON**

No, no, no! Enough! No more banal questions and selfies! I think I know how to  
handle this one. I'm gonna *Midsummer* these dweebs.

**TOURIST HUSBAND ONE**

Dweebs? Does the Hawaiian shirt *not* look good?

**TOURIST WIFE ONE**

That's just how people talk in the big city. *Fuggedadaboutit!*

**PUCK**

Oh my God, end this!

**OBERON**

Indeed. (Magic gesture—the FOUR TOURISTS freeze.) Now, I shall do as we did  
in the incomparable play by Shakespeare. I shall make both men fall in love with

this woman (referring to TOURIST WIFE ONE), and thus drive them all to madness! (Another magic gesture, steps back.) And away we go!

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

(looking at TOURIST WIFE ONE) Hey, there, I gotta say, you are rocking that outfit!

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

What are you doing? That's my wife!

TOURIST WIFE TWO

Yes, dear, what ARE you doing? I'm standing right here!

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

Please—like that's any reason not to tell her—I'm in love with you!

TOURIST WIFE ONE

What?

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

WHAT?!

TOURIST WIFE TWO

Again: Standing right here!

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

(to TOURIST WIFE TWO, contemptuously)

*Ay, by my life;  
I never did desire to see thee more.  
Be certain, nothing truer; 'tis no jest  
That I do hate thee and love her.*

TOURIST WIFE TWO

(furiously at TOURIST WIFE ONE) *O me!  
You thief of love! what, have you come by night  
And stolen my love's heart from him?*

TOURIST WIFE ONE

*Let her not strike me. You perhaps may think,  
Because she is something lower than myself,  
That I can match her.*

TOURIST WIFE TWO

*Now I perceive that she hath made compare  
Between our statures; And are you grown so high in his esteem;  
Because I am so dwarfish and so low?*

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

*Be not afraid; she shall not harm thee.*

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

*No, sir, she shall not, though you take her part.*

TOURIST WIFE ONE

*O, when she's angry, she is keen and shrewd!  
And though she be but little, she is fierce.*

TOURIST HUSBAND TWO

*Now follow, if thou darest, to try whose right,  
Of thine or mine, is most in her*

TOURIST HUSBAND ONE

*Follow! nay, I'll go with thee, cheek by jowl.*

(TOURIST HUSBAND ONE and TOURIST HUSBAND TWO go off, clearly about to fight.

FOREST RANGER ONE

Wait, so are you gonna let those four just run off and whale on each other?

OBERON

(considers for a second) Yes.

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

This is the best day since a Ben's Chili Bowl opened up right across the street from me.

(TITANIA and ARIEL enter.)

**OBERON**

And here she is—my partner—my love—let all give welcome to Titania, Queen of the Fairies, First Lady of the Forest.. (Fanfare, if possible.)

**TITANIA**

(cheerful, casual, to OBERON, with a peck on the cheek) Hi, honey. Tough day at the office?

**OBERON**

Eh, same old, same old. Mortals, you know?

**TITANIA**

Oh, I know—don't get me started!

**OBERON**

What about you? Good day?

**TITANIA**

Not bad—little shopping in City Center—mani/pedi in Georgetown—lunch at Le Dip...

**FOREST RANGER TWO**

(to PUCK) They seem awfully casual for a couple of demigods!

**TITANIA**

Then I ran into this one just outside the forest—she says her name is Ariel.

**ARIEL**

Indeed it is, and indeed I am. Airy servant to my master, the sorcerer Prospero, I come to tell you all--

TITANIA

(butting in) But before we get to that—I passed a little theatre in Penn Quarter, they are doing a play called “The School for Lies”. It looks most delightful and funny.

ARIEL

Delightful as these frolics are, sire, I come to share important news—and hopefully an ending to the play.

PUCK

About time—(Refers to onstage cast members)--everyone back there is getting fidgety.

OBERON

Tell us, then, this news—whence comes it? Where have you been?

TITANIA

(before ARIEL can speak) *Up and down, up and down,  
I have wandered up and down:  
Through the field and through the town:  
I have wandered up and down.*

PUCK

Everybody keeps stealing my lines!

OBERON

(to Titania:) And? Why so?

TITANIA

Because I knew that you would want to spend the summer here in these woods, and I just couldn’t face that prospect. The heat—dear Lord, the heat!

ARIEL

Indeed. I am pure spirit, and I’m sweating—I don’t have glands or pores—this shouldn’t be!

TITANIA

Exactly, so, I was looking for someplace—anyplace—else to hang out for the season, and then I met this spirit.

ARIEL

I was coming in search of you both.

OBERON

And what does Ariel want with us?

ARIEL

(grandly) I come here from a magical isle, where my master Prospero invites you to spend the season with him.

OBERON

Oh—and what is this isle? Atlantis? Avalon?

ARIEL

No. Martha's Vineyard—you've never been?

OBERON

No, but I hear good things! Tell me more.

PUCK

Ooo! I hear Chelsea Handler has a place! Why she hasn't interviewed me yet, I do not know.

ARIEL:

*Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises,  
Sounds and sweet airs, that give delight and hurt not.  
Sometimes a thousand twangling instruments  
Will hum about mine ears, and sometime voices  
That, if I then had waked after long sleep,  
Will make me sleep again: and then, in dreaming,  
The clouds methought would open and show riches  
Ready to drop upon me that, when I waked,  
I cried to dream again.*

OBERON

In that case, let us leave this fiery, dreadful swamp behind—

FOREST RANGER ONE

Hey!—

OBERON

Stop fooling yourself,—between the heat and the tourists, the last time I was in a place like this, Dante was writing an epic about it.

FOREST RANGER ONE

No! No! I am not taking this anymore! (defiantly) You come here, and you make a mess, and you complain, and—you know what? I just realized something! You—you’re the tourists! (OBERON and TITANIA are shocked.) Well, this is my home. (Big, defiantly, she does her spiel--) Covering nearly 13,000 acres of pristine wilderness, the Patuxent Research Reserve is the only National Nature reserve in the United States to support wildlife research. The Reserve was founded in 1936 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, it has since become a leading international research institute for wildlife and applied environmental research, and for providing technical assistance in implementing research findings so as to improve natural resource management.

(Pause. She’s a little out of breath. Everyone is impressed.)

PUCK

(finally) Well, damn.

FOREST RANGER TWO

Wow...hearing you talk about the park like that...Okay, can I just, say something crazy?

FOREST RANGER ONE

I love crazy!

FOREST RANGER TWO

Even though we’ve worked together a long time,  
*The course of true love never did run smooth*

(singing ‘Ten Minutes Ago’ from Cinderella) Ten minutes ago, I saw you. I looked up when you came through the door. My head started reeling you gave me the feeling the room had no ceiling or floor. Ten minutes ago, I met you, and we murmured our how do you dos I wanted to ring out the bells and fling out my arms and sing out the news. (singing ‘Love Is An Open Door’) I've been searching my whole life to find my own place and maybe it's the forest talking or these quirky two. But with you. I found my place...And it's nothing like I've ever known before! Love is an open door!

EVERYONE: LOVE IS AN OPEN DOOOOOOOOR!

**OBERON**

(gathers his composure -- to FOREST RANGER ONE) You have spoken fair and true. We long not to be tourists...and you all clearly need some alone time. Besides, we lack sun-visors and neon tee shirts. Therefore, my queen and I shall depart for the fair Vineyard of Martha.

**TITANIA**

Red pants and pink wine, here we come! Rose ALL DAY!

**OBERON**

But before we leave, we give to you our blessing, and our thanks—may you stand as guardian of this place for many years to come.

*Now, until the break of day,  
Through this house each fairy stray.  
To the best bride-bed will we,  
Which by us shall blessed be;  
And the issue there create  
Ever shall be fortunate.  
With this field-dew consecrate,  
Every fairy take his gait;  
And each several chamber bless,  
Through this palace, with sweet peace;  
And the owner of it blest  
Ever shall in safety rest.*

FOREST RANGER ONE  
Thank you.

FOREST RANGER TWO  
Seems a little anti-climactic, given what we just went through.

OBERON  
*If we shadows have offended,  
Think but this, and all is mended—*

PUCK  
STOP STEALING MY LINES!

FOREST RANGER ONE  
(yawning, as if waking up) Oh. Hey. Sorry, must have nodded off.  
*O wonder!*  
*How many goodly creatures are there here!  
How beauteous mankind is! O brave new world  
That has such people in't!*

FOREST RANGER TWO  
The heat, you know?

FOREST RANGER ONE  
(back into tour guide mode, leading OBERON and TITANIA off) Well, since you're here, let me tell you guys about the Patuxent Research Reserve —

OBERON  
We can't wait to hear it.

(FOREST RANGERS, OBERON and TITANIA exit. PUCK and ARIEL linger for a second.)

PUCK  
Well, that was complicated and silly. (Grins) Which means it was my kind of evening. (Puts arms around ARIEL)

**ARIEL**

Oh wow, then I have some stories for you! Let's ditch this place.

**PUCK**

(looks around) Just think of it. Three months of this heat, and some people live here voluntarily.

**ARIEL**

Voluntarily?

**PUCK**

*Lord, what fools these mortals be!*

OK, cue the closing chorus!

(PUCK and ARIEL exit. EPILOGUE CHORUS enters)

**EPILOGUE CHORUS ONE**

“Sometimes too hot the eye of heaven shines”  
That much the Bard of Avon’s pen makes clear--  
But think of all the gripes and groans and whines  
He’d have to write about if he were here.

**EPILOGUE CHORUS TWO**

For summer in this town is mighty cruel  
So bad it makes you miss the winter snows--  
And since our kids have been let out of school  
We’re doubly pained, as every parent knows.

**EPILOGUE CHORUS THREE**

Small wonder, then the Fairy Queen and King  
Depart Patuxent for a gentler clime--  
On Vineyard Isle they’ll have a summer fling  
And then move on before the autumn-time.

**EPILOGUE CHORUS FOUR**

In flight, they leave the Ranger, safe and free  
To carry on her work through summer’s heat

So too do we depart your company  
And send you off into the swelt'ring street.

#### EPILOGUE CHORUS FIVE

But first, before we go, we'll take a bow  
And give our thanks to those who risked their necks  
Performing in this show--we thank them now  
And also thanks to those who wrote us checks.

#### EPILOGUE CHORUS SIX

The cause of Shakespeare brings us here tonight  
The faith that folks are bettered by the Bard--  
So let us know, by clapping, that we're right  
Or please, at least don't boo us all too hard!

#### EPILOGUE CHORUS SEVEN

Outside this hall, the summer months await  
And with their heat our miseries are fed  
Yet what sustains us through this fiery fate?  
The faith and hope for cooler months ahead.  
So good night all, and thank you once, and twice--  
For giving to our cause to show you care--  
And as you leave, one last word of advice--  
Drink lots of water, 'cause it's hot out there!

(PUCK returns – mischievously)

#### PUCK

(to audience.)

*If we shadows have offended,  
Think but this, and all is mended—  
That you have but slumbered here  
While these visions did appear.  
And this weak and idle theme,  
No more yielding but a dream,  
Gentles, do not reprehend.  
If you pardon, we will mend.*

*And, as I am an honest Puck,  
If we have unearnèd luck  
Now to 'scape the serpent's tongue,  
We will make amends ere long.  
Else the Puck a liar call.  
So good night unto you all.  
Give me your hands if we be friends,  
And Robin shall restore amends.*

**United States Department of the Interior  
Official Travel Schedule of the Secretary**

**Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Boston**

**June 13 - June 16, 2017**

**Draft: 6/7/2017**



**TRIP SUMMARY**  
**THE TRIP OF THE SECRETARY TO**  
Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Boston  
**June 13 - June 16, 2017**

**Weather:**

Uncasville, CT	High 87°, Low 69°, Sunny
Hooksett, NH	High 91°, Low 67°, Mostly Sunny
Katahdin National Monument	
Boston, MA	

**Time Zone:**

New England	Eastern Daylight Time
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**Advance (Connecticut):**

Security Advance	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Advance	Rusty Roddy

**Cell Phone:**

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Advance (New Hampshire):**

Security Advance	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Advance	Rusty Roddy

**Cell Phone:**

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Advance (Katahdin National Monument):**

Security Advance	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Advance	Caroline Boulton

**Cell Phone:**

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Advance (Freeport, ME)**

Security Advance	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Advance	Caroline Boulton

**Cell Phone:**

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Advance (Boston, MA):**

Security Advance	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Advance	Rusty Roddy

**Cell Phone:**

(b) (6)  
(b) (6)

**Traveling Staff:**

Agent in Charge	(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Acting Deputy Secretary	Jim Cason
Deputy Chief of Staff	Downey Magallanes
Communications Director	Laura Rigas
Press Secretary	Heather Swift
Deputy Director of External Affairs	Tim Williams
Photographer	Tami Heilemann
Personal Aide	Aaron Thiele

**Cell Phone:**

(b) (6)

**Attire:**

**Tuesday, June 13, 2017**

Washington, DC → Mohegan Sun, CT → Hooksett, NH → Bangor, ME

**5:45-6:15am EDT:** **Depart Private Residence en route Airport**

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle:

Drive time: ~30 minutes

**7:05am EDT-**

**8:22am EDT: Wheels up Washington, DC (DCA) en route Hartford, CT (Bradley)**

Flight: JetBlue 798

Flight time: 1 hour, 17 minutes

RZ Seat: 9D

AiC: [redacted]

Staff: Jim Cason

Aaron Thiele

Tami Heilemann

**8:22-8:35am EDT:**

**Wheels down Hartford, CT // Proceed to Vehicles**

Location: Schoephoester Road  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096

**8:35-9:35am EDT:**

**Depart Hartford, CT en route Mohegan Sun, CT**

Location: 1 Mohegan Sun Boulevard  
Uncasville, CT 06382

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle: RZ

Lt. Chris Lopez

[redacted]

Jim Cason

Staff Vehicle: Aaron Thiele (Driver)

Tami Heilemann

Drive time: ~1 hour, 2 minutes

**10:00-10:30am EDT:**

**National Congress of American Indians Mid-Year Conference Remarks**

Location:

Participants:

Press: Open

Staff: Jim Cason

Laura Rigas

Aaron Thiele

Advance: Rusty Roddy

Format: 20 minute remarks, 10 minutes Q&A

Plenary session of tribal leaders; podium in center of the stage with board members on both sides; tribal delegates will be sitting in the tables in the front of the room

**10:45-1:00pm EDT:**

**Depart Mohegan Sun en route Hooksett, NH**

Location:

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle: RZ

Staff Vehicle: Rusty Roddy

Laura Rigas

Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele  
Tami Heilemann  
Drive time: ~2 hours, 15 minutes

**1:00-2:30pm EDT:** **Lunch**

**2:30-3:15pm EDT:** **Pittman-Robertson Grants Roundtable**  
Location: Bass Pro Shop  
2 Commerce Drive  
Hooksett, NH 03106  
Participants: Sarah Holmes, State Director, Senator Shaheen  
Press: Closed  
Staff: Downey Magallanes  
Tim Williams  
Laura Rigas  
Aaron Thiele  
Tami Heilemann  
Advance: Rusty Roddy

**3:15-3:30pm EDT:** **Meeting with Governor Chris Sununu**  
Location: Bass Pro Shop  
Participants: RZ  
Governor Chris Sununu (R-NH)  
Jayne Millerick, Chief of Staff  
Press: Closed  
Staff: Downey Magallanes  
Tim Williams  
Tami Heilemann  
Advance: Rusty Roddy

**3:30-4:00pm EDT:** **Pittman-Robertson Grant Announcement & Media Availability**  
Location: Bass Pro Shop  
Participants: Sarah Holmes, State Director, Senator Shaheen  
Press: Open  
Staff: Downey Magallanes  
Tim Williams  
Laura Rigas  
Aaron Thiele  
Tami Heilemann  
Advance: Rusty Roddy  
Format: Stage; outdoors-themed (flying ducks)  
Podium--will need DOI seal

**4:00-6:45pm EDT:** **Depart Hooksett, NH en route Augusta, ME**  
Location: 192 State Street  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle: RZ  
Staff Vehicle: Laura Rigas  
Aaron Thiele (Driver)  
Downey Magallanes  
Tami Heilemann  
Drive time: ~2 hours, 30 minutes

**7:00-8:30pm EDT:** **Dinner with Governor LePage**  
Location: The Blaine House  
192 State Street  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Participants:  
Staff: Scott Hommel  
Downey Magallanes  
Laura Rigas  
Heather Swift  
Aaron Thiele  
Tami Heilemann  
Advance: Caroline Boulton

**8:30-9:45pm EDT:** **Depart Augusta, ME en route Bangor, ME**  
Location: Hilton Garden Inn Bangor  
250 Haskell Road  
Bangor, ME 04401

Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle: RZ  
Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton (Driver)  
Scott Hommel  
Downey Magallanes  
Laura Rigas  
Staff Vehicle 2: Heather Swift  
Aaron Thiele (Driver)  
Tami Heilemann

Drive time: ~1 hour, 15 minutes

**9:45pm EDT:** RON

**Wednesday, June 14, 2017**  
Bangor, ME → Katahdin National Monument

**8:00-9:30am EDT:** **Depart Bangor, ME en route Medway, ME**  
Location: Park & Ride by Medway Irving Big Stop  
1941 Medway Road  
Medway, ME 04460

Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle: RZ  
Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton (Driver)  
Scott Hommel  
Downey Magallanes  
Laura Rigas  
Staff Vehicle 2: Heather Swift  
Aaron Thiele (Driver)  
Tami Heilemann

Drive time: ~1 hour

**9:30-9:45am EDT:** **Arrive Medway // Proceed to Vehicles**  
Location: Park & Ride  
Greeted By: Tim Hudson, Superintendent, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

Lucas St. Clair, Elliotsville Plantation, Inc.  
Note: Press will join at this point

**9:45-11:30am EDT:**

**Depart Medway, ME en route Katahdin National Monument**

Location: Enter via Swift Brook Road

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle:	RZ
	Tim Hudson
	Lucas St. Clair
Staff Vehicle:	Caroline Boulton
	Scott Hommel
	Downey Magallanes
	Laura Rigas
Staff Vehicle 2:	Aaron Thiele
	Tami Heilemann
Press Van:	Heather Swift

Drive time: ~1 hour

**11:30-12:00pm EDT:**

**Driving Tour of Monument**

Location: Katahdin Loop Road

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle:
Staff Vehicle:
Press Vehicle:

**12:00-12:20pm EDT:**

**Lunch**

Location: Scenic Viewpoint at Milepost 6  
Katahdin Loop Road

**12:20-12:45pm EDT:**

**Press Availability**

Location: Scenic Viewpoint at Milepost 6  
Katahdin Loop Road

Format: Backdrop is Mount Katahdin, Appalachian Trail, and various lakes

**12:45-3:00pm EDT:**

**Continue Driving Tour of Monument**

Location: Katahdin Loop Road

Note: Will stop at Orin Falls on the Wassataquoik Stream (1 hour round trip hike)

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle:
Staff Vehicle:

**3:00-4:00pm EDT:**

**Finish Loop Road & Drive to Lunksoos**

Location: Lunksoos Camp

Vehicle Manifest:

Secretary's Vehicle:
Staff Vehicle:

**4:00-5:30pm EDT:**

**Canoe Trip**

Location: East Branch of Penobscot River

Note: Can accommodate 10 inexperienced canoeers

Note: Press depart

**5:30-7:30pm EDT:**

**Set up at Lunksoos Camp // Dinner**

Location: Lunksoos Camps

**8:00pm EDT:** **RON at Cabins at Lunksoos Camps**  
Note: Sleeping bags will be provided

**Thursday, June 15, 2017**  
Katahdin National Monument → Boston, MA

**7:30-8:30am EDT:** **Depart Katahdin National Monument en route Millinocket, ME**  
Location: River Driver's Restaurant & Pub  
10 Chanterelle Lane  
Millinocket, ME 04462

Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle:  
Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton  
Scott Hommel  
Downey Magallanes  
Laura Rigas  
Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele  
Tami Heilemann  
Heather Swift

Drive time: ~1 hour

**8:30-9:30am EDT:** **Breakfast Meeting with Katahdin Chamber of Commerce & Local Councilmen**  
Location: River Driver's Restaurant & Pub  
Press: Open

**9:30-10:55am EDT:** **Depart Millinocket en route Indian Island**

Location:  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle:  
Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton  
Scott Hommel  
Downey Magallanes  
Laura Rigas  
Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele  
Tami Heilemann  
Heather Swift

Drive Time: ~1 hour, 30 minutes

**10:55am EDT:** **Arrive Indian Island Bridge // Proceed to Natural Resources Building**  
Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building  
27 Wabanaki Way  
Indian Island, ME  
Note: Chief of Police Bob Bryant and two cruisers will escort to meeting

**11:00-11:05am EDT:** **Arrive Nicholas Sapiel, Jr. Natural Resources Building**  
Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building  
Greeted By: Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation  
Note: Introduction to WWII Penobscot Veteran Charles Norman Shay

**11:05-11:10am EDT:** **Opening Prayer & Introductions**

Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building  
Attendees: Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation  
Maulian Dana, Council Member  
Charlene Virgilio, Council Member  
Donna Loring, Council Member  
Mark Chavaree, Internal Legal Counsel  
Bob Bryant, Chief of Police  
John Banks, Director of Natural Resources  
Jill Thompkins, Director of Courts  
James Francis, Director of Culture and Historic Preservation  
Dr. Ben Huerth, Medical Director  
Press: Closed

**11:10-11:35am EDT: Presentation of Interior-Funded Programs at the Penobscot Nation**

Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building  
Attendees: Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation  
Maulian Dana, Council Member  
Charlene Virgilio, Council Member  
Donna Loring, Council Member  
Mark Chavaree, Internal Legal Counsel  
Bob Bryant, Chief of Police  
John Banks, Director of Natural Resources  
Jill Thompkins, Director of Courts  
James Francis, Director of Culture and Historic Preservation  
Dr. Ben Huerth, Medical Director

**11:35-11:55am EDT: Discussion of the Importance of the Interior Department as a Trustee**

Location: Nicholas Sapiel Jr. Natural Resources Building  
Attendees: Kirk Francis, Chief of the Penobscot Nation  
Maulian Dana, Council Member  
Charlene Virgilio, Council Member  
Donna Loring, Council Member  
Mark Chavaree, Internal Legal Counsel  
Bob Bryant, Chief of Police  
John Banks, Director of Natural Resources  
Jill Thompkins, Director of Courts  
James Francis, Director of Culture and Historic Preservation  
Dr. Ben Huerth, Medical Director

**11:55-12:00pm EDT: Conclusion of Meeting**

**12:00-1:30pm EDT: Depart Indian Island en route Augusta**

Location:  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle:  
Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton  
Scott Hommel  
Downey Magallanes  
Laura Rigas  
Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele  
Tami Heilemann  
Heather Swift  
Drive Time: ~1 hour, 30 minutes

**1:30-2:00pm EDT:** **Quick Lunch**

**2:00-3:00pm EDT:** **Roundtable with Maine Woods Coalition**  
Location: Maine Forest Products Council Building  
535 Civic Center Drive  
Augusta, ME 04330  
Participants:  
Press:  
Staff:  
Advance:

**3:00-3:30pm EDT:** **HOLD: Media Availability**  
Location:

**3:30-4:15pm EDT:** **Depart Augusta en route Freeport**  
Location:  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle:  
Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton  
Scott Hommel  
Downey Magallanes  
Laura Rigas  
Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele  
Tami Heilemann  
Heather Swift  
Drive Time: ~40 minutes

**4:30-5:30pm EDT:** **Meeting with L.L. Bean**  
Location:

**5:30-7:30pm EDT:** **Depart Freeport en route Boston, MA**  
Location:  
Vehicle Manifest:  
Secretary's Vehicle:  
Staff Vehicle: Caroline Boulton  
Scott Hommel  
Downey Magallanes  
Laura Rigas  
Staff Vehicle 2: Aaron Thiele  
Tami Heilemann  
Heather Swift  
Drive time: ~2 hours, 5 minutes

**7:30-9:00pm EDT:** **Private Dinner**  
Location: 94 Whitin Avenue  
Revere, MA 02151

**9:00-9:30pm EDT:** **Depart Revere, MA en route RON**  
Location: Hilton Boston Downtown/Faneuil Hall  
89 Broad Street  
Boston, MA 02110

**9:30pm EDT:** **RON**

**Friday, June 16, 2017**  
Boston, MA → Washington, DC

**11:00-12:00am EDT:** **Fishermen Roundtable**

Location: Legal Seafood Harborside  
270 Northern Avenue  
Boston, MA 02210  
Participants: 20 people from fishing groups  
Press: Open

Dr. Scott Kraus, VP of Research, New England Aquarium--with FWS Interim Superintendent  
MA Secretary Matt Beaton  
USS Constitution

**8:00pm EDT-**

**9:47pm EDT:**

**Wheels up Boston, MA (BOS) en route Washington, DC (DCA)**

Flight: American Airlines 2116  
Flight time: 1 hour, 47 minutes  
RZ Seat:  
AiC: [REDACTED]  
Staff:

# **INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

## **Briefing Daily Summary -, 2017**

**FROM:** Christine Bauserman, 202-706-9330

### **OVERVIEW:**

Today you have one briefing and talking points:

03:30 - 04:00 pm Colorado River Basin Brief  
( Talking Points are at the end. )

04:00 - 04:30 pm Colorado River Basin Call

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### **I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This is an initial meeting with the Governors' Representatives of the seven Colorado River Basin States. It is an opportunity to hear Basin States' priorities for ongoing cooperation with DOI and priorities to address the ongoing historic drought on the Colorado River.

### **II. BACKGROUND**

The Secretary of the Interior, either directly, or through the Bureau of Reclamation plays the crucial role in terms of the management of the Colorado River - particularly in the lower basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada (Hoover Dam operations), where the Secretary serves as the Water Master for lower Colorado River decisions and operations. There is a unique working relationship between Interior/Reclamation and the seven Colorado River Basin States – a partnership different from other western interstate river systems.

- **All seven states will be looking for the Secretary to acknowledge the importance of close federal/state coordination on Colorado River operations, particularly given the ongoing period of historic drought that dates to 1999.**
- **While this winter has been a good one with snowpack currently at approximately 115% of normal, this one good winter does not mean the drought is over and the states are hoping and expecting Interior to press the states to finalize their drought contingency plans over the next 9-12 months.**

### **III. DISCUSSION**

**(Bolded bullets are key messages also reflected in the talking points)**

The States are likely to prioritize finalizing a water shortage sharing agreement with Mexico – referred to as “Minute 32x” to the 1944 Treaty, and are hoping that this critical agreement can be signed as early as September of 2017. This agreement will ensure that Mexico will take reductions of Colorado River deliveries at the same time as users in the U.S., along with other water sharing and environmental cooperation.

- **The states will be looking for the Secretary to indicate his support for their efforts to finalize agreements with Mexico, and are hoping that these agreements can be finalized well before the end of 2017, when the current water sharing agreement**

# **INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**

## **Briefing Daily Summary -, 2017**

**(“Minute 319”) expires.**

The States are also likely to press for continued Interior and Reclamation support to facilitate ongoing drought response discussions among the seven Basin States, recognizing that a number of issues – particularly internal discussions in Arizona and California – will likely mean that negotiations and finalization of drought response agreements in the U.S. will extend into early 2018.

- **The states will be looking for the Secretary to press, then to complete these efforts as soon as possible, and for Interior to identify these efforts as a top water management priority for the Department.**

### **IV. NEXT STEPS**

Interior respects the role of each of the States and commits to continue the close and unique working relationship between DOI and the seven States in the Colorado River Basin.

### **V. PARTICIPANTS**

Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke  
Scott Cameron, Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science  
Kerry Rae, Chief of Staff for Water and Science  
Alan Mikkelsen, Acting Commissioner of Reclamation  
David Palumbo, Deputy Commissioner of Reclamation  
Solicitor’s Office – K. Jack Haugrud, Acting Solicitor; Keith Saxe, Associate Solicitor; Bob Snow, Attorney-Advisor  
Brent Rhees, Reclamation’s Upper Colorado Regional Director  
Terry Fulp, Reclamation’s Lower Colorado Regional Director

#### **Basin States Principals**

Thomas Buschatzke, Director, Arizona Department of Water Resources  
Bart Fisher, Jr., Chairman, Colorado River Board of California  
James Eklund, (former) Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board  
John Entsminger, General Manager, Southern Nevada Water Authority  
Jayne Harkins, Executive Director, Colorado River Commission of Nevada  
Tom Blaine, State Engineer, State of New Mexico  
Eric Millis, Director, Utah Division of Water Resources, Utah Interstate Stream Commissioner  
Patrick Tyrell, State Engineer, State of Wyoming  
Don Ostler, Executive Director, Upper Colorado River Commission

### **VI. ATTACHMENTS**

**T.P. provided on this electronic copy. The rest of the attachments are in the Briefing Book.**

- 1) Call agenda
- 2) Agenda annotated with **talking points**
- 3) Participant bios
- 4) Incoming March 8, 2017 letter from Basin States Representatives

**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**  
**Briefing Daily Summary -, 2017**

**INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY**  
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**ATTACHMENT 2: ANNOTATED AGENDA:**

I. Introductions (3 mins)

- Department of the Interior Participants
- Basin States Representatives

II. Welcoming Remarks by Secretary Zinke (5 mins)

- Appreciate the opportunity to meet the Governors' representatives – Aware that there is a unique history of DOI/Basin States collaboration on the Colorado River and I'm committed to preserve the excellent partnership that Interior and Reclamation have developed with the Basin States.
- Understand the critical role of Interior throughout the Basin – 3 points:
  - Recognize the primacy of the States in the Upper Basin – Throughout the Reclamation states, we recognize the primary role state water law plays in Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming. Nevertheless, given the massive federal water storage projects in each of the Upper Basin States, Interior and the States have to work together to identify and implement coordinated operations, particularly in times of drought.
  - Recognize the unique role of the Secretary in the Lower Basin – I've been fully briefed on my responsibility as "Water Master" in the Lower Basin – and we intend to work closely with the Lower Basin states to finalize and implement strategies on drought response actions.
  - Also recognize the importance of ensuring that water deliveries to Mexico remain in proportion with U.S. deliveries – We hear your concerns that if the U.S. is taking reductions on the Colorado River, Mexico must share the burden of shortages as well. We'll continue to work with and support all of you, the International Boundary and Water Commission, and Mexico on this important set of operations and decisions, including Minute 32x.
- In summary, we respect the role of each of the States and commit to continue the close and unique working relationship between DOI and the seven States in the Colorado River Basin.

III. Each Basin State Representative Summarizes key issues and priorities (14 mins)

IV. Interior Department – response, feedback, and next steps (8 mins)

V. Adjourn